

most outstanding characteristics, and he was loyal and staunch through all vicissitudes. None loyal to his memory would wish it to be known how many times he befriended those in trouble, but there are many sad hearts at his passing and many among his poorest dispensary and hospital patients. Parkin was very fond of children, and his affection for them was reciprocated. He took no part in sport, but was very fond of motoring and loved the country and country affairs. It was a delight to accompany him to a country consultation; there was never a dull moment on such a journey, for he knew the North Country well, and he found great interest in all around him. His was indeed an intimate place in the profession, for he always gave of his very best irrespective of the social position of the patient and of time and distance. In consequence he was trusted by a large and ever-widening circle, and was often the "doctor's doctor," than which no higher compliment can be paid. There is no doubt that he gave of himself and that he was often a tired man, for though a little chary of undertaking certain work he gave his whole soul to the job in hand. Others may have taken more part in public affairs, been more active on committees and in learned societies, but no one did his daily work and that which was most directly to his hand with greater devotion and more conscientiously than Alfred Parkin. His passing is a great loss to this district—no less to his numerous patients than to his colleagues. His quiet and unassuming yet resourceful ways engendered that "love and faith which failure cannot quell," and the very large concourse at the interment was an evidence. He is survived by a widow, but leaves no family. Great sympathy is felt for this lady, for they were most devoted; also for his mother, an old lady of 97, who was his constant care, and for the other surviving members of the family.

G. GREY TURNER.

Sir THOMAS OLIVER writes:

A week ago a wave of sorrow passed over Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the North of England owing to the comparatively sudden death of Dr. Alfred Parkin. As one of his old teachers, and as he was my assistant physician and succeeded to my ward on my retirement from the Infirmary, I feel that I must give expression of my sense of personal regret at the passing of a colleague whom I had known from his student days, and with whom I had worked closely and amicably for several years. Dr. Parkin had a refined and cultured mind: he remained a student in the best sense of the term: he knew his work well and yet was never obtrusive. He was regarded by medical practitioners as a sound and reliable consultant, and had, therefore, a large following. By the students he was held in high esteem as a teacher of clinical medicine. The thoroughness with which he examined his patients and the sympathetic regard he extended to them endeared him to all with whom he was professionally brought into contact. I do not think Dr. Parkin ever harboured an ill feeling towards anyone. Much sympathy is felt for his widow.

[The photograph reproduced is by James Bacon and Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne.]

H. L. WATSON WEMYSS, M.D., F.R.C.P.ED.

Assistant Physician, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

The death took place on February 3rd, from pneumonia, of Dr. Herbert Lindesay Watson Wemyss, one of the assistant physicians to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He was born at Broughty Ferry in 1885, his father being in medical practice in that town. His grandfather had been a surgeon to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and, as a lecturer on clinical surgery, was one of the first persons to devote special attention to diseases of the eye, and to publish, in 1830, a treatise on this subject.

Dr. Watson Wemyss, after an early education at Broughty Ferry and at Marlborough, studied medicine at Edinburgh University, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1908. After acting as resident physician to the late Dr. G. A. Gibson, he engaged in a period of post-graduate study at Berlin. He proceeded M.D. in 1910, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1914. Confining his activities to medical practice, he was appointed physician to the Royal Public Dispensary, Edinburgh, and a tutor in clinical medicine in the Royal Infirmary, to which institution he subsequently became assistant physician, a post which he held at the time of his death. He was also for a time physician to Leith Hospital, and, later, physician to the Deaconess Hospital, Edinburgh. During the war he acted as medical officer to the Red Cross hospital established in Lord Rosebery's residence at Dalmeny House, and later served in Malta. From time to time he contributed papers to medical literature upon such subjects as "Erythraemia, with notes on two cases" (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1911); "Renal infantilism" in the same paper, 1922; "A case of Vaquez's disease," in the *British Medical Journal*, 1913; and "Treatment of the amoebic carrier," in the *Lancet*, 1918.

Dr. Watson Wemyss was one of the most successful and popular teachers in the Edinburgh Medical School, a man of quiet manner, wide culture, and many interests. For a number of years he took considerable interest in the Harveian Society, a historic dining club which was founded by Andrew Duncan at the end of the eighteenth century, and for many years acted as its secretary. He was a keen golfer, and as secretary to the Royal Colleges Golf Club interested himself greatly in arranging an annual match between the Fellows of the two Colleges. A memorial service was held in St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh, on February 7th, which was attended by a large gathering of his colleagues in the various medical institutions with which he had been associated and by other members of the profession. He is survived by a widow and daughter.

ALFRED EICHHOLZ, C.B.E., M.D.

Former Chief Medical Inspector, Board of Education

The death took place, on February 6th, after ten days' illness, of Dr. Alfred Eichholz, who for many years, until his retirement in 1930, occupied a position on the medical staff of the Board of Education as chief medical inspector.

Dr. Eichholz, who was 63 years of age, was the son of a Manchester cotton merchant, and was of German descent on his father's side and Dutch on his mother's. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School, and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he gained first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Science Tripos. Proceeding to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he obtained his medical qualification in 1895, and took the M.D. of his university in 1898. In the latter year he was appointed one of H.M. inspectors of schools, and was assigned to districts in South London, where he obtained that sympathetic insight into the social conditions of the working classes which was manifest in all his later work. No time could have been more opportune for the commencement of a career in such a field. Although the establishment of a system of medical inspection of school children and the beginning of the present school medical service was still ten years ahead, the Board of Education had already realized the need of developing some form of medical inspection in the schools, the case of children suffering from deafness, blindness, and mental defect had already been the subject of legislation, and the desirability that expert advice should be at the disposal of local education authorities with a view to the classification

of defects and the organization of special schools or classes had been made evident. In all this work Eichholz was specially fitted to render eminent service, and this he did to the full. In 1907 there was passed the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, which laid upon education authorities the new duty of providing for the medical inspection of all children attending public elementary schools, and thereby Eichholz, now working centrally at Whitehall, found his duties and responsibilities greatly increased. In 1914 there was passed another piece of legislation in which he was greatly interested—namely, an Act which renewed that of 1899 (which had dealt for the first time from the point of view of the State with mental deficiency) and provided for defective and epileptic children in a more thoroughgoing way. During these important years for the development of medical as of other aspects of education, Eichholz maintained close touch with medical officers and administrators in all parts of the country, carried out much pioneer work, and helped to establish a new service, which appeared very revolutionary at the time, on sound lines. He also influenced administration by the evidence which he gave before Royal Commissions and departmental committees on such subjects as provision for the feeble-minded, physical deterioration, and the employment of juveniles.

After his retirement from the Board of Education he undertook an inquiry for the Board and the Ministry of Health into the social conditions of the deaf. This inquiry occupied two years, and the report, which was published at the end of last year, appeared under the name of the investigator. One point brought out in the report was that only those deaf persons who receive adequate vocational training during youth are likely to be self-supporting and economically independent throughout their lives. Eichholz had been himself a member of the Departmental Committee of 1922 on the causes and prevention of blindness, and it was to the interests of the blind in particular that he devoted himself on his retirement. He was an active member of the council of the National Institute for the Blind, and was engaged on the work of a committee of that institute when he contracted his fatal illness. He wrote extensively also on the subject of the treatment of the feeble-minded. One of his first contributions on that subject was in the pages of the *Journal* in 1902, and at about the same time he was responsible for a report on the treatment of the feeble-minded in Germany. The bulk of his writing was in the form of reports and memorandums conveying official information, but in his earlier career he wrote a number of papers on anatomical and physiological subjects.

Dr. Eichholz served as chairman of the Central Committee on Jewish Education and as a member of the Jewish Religious Education Board. He married in 1895 the daughter of Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi.

THE LATE SIR FREDERIC HALLETT

Mr. W. A. MAGGS writes: As a member for several years of the Dental Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England I had frequent opportunities of meeting Sir Frederic Hallett, and soon learned to appreciate his ability as an organizer and administrator. Courteous, and at all times accessible, he was pleased to discuss any matter likely to make the examinations go as smoothly as possible. He arranged that the candidates from the provinces should not be kept in London longer than was absolutely necessary. He was emphatic in stating that the College of Surgeons, although not a wealthy corporation, desired not only to pay for the dental material used in examinations, but also to remunerate those persons who took part in them—namely, the patients, house-surgeons, dental mechanics, and others. A hard-worked and busy man, he still found time for his beautiful garden. His memory will be held in high esteem

by the thousands of medical and dental men with whom, as a Director of Examinations for the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons for fifty years, he came in contact—one of the best known and loved in the profession. "He was a veray parfit gentil knight."

THE LATE MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

A correspondent sends us the following details supplementing the obituary notice published in our issue of February 4th.

Mr. Christopher Martin gained first-class honours at Edinburgh before he was old enough to be put on the *Medical Register*. He had won a travelling scholarship in diseases of women, but because he was not on the *Register*, on account of his youth, the scholarship was given to the man who was *proxime accessit*. The professor of that subject, however, was so impressed with his ability and personality that he gave him the advantages which the scholarship would have given, and sent him to Germany for three months' study.

Mr. Martin was appointed honorary surgeon on the staff of the Birmingham and Midland Women's Hospital in 1890, at the remarkably early age of 23. It was due entirely to his initiative, as well as largely to his subsequent efforts, that the new hospital was built in 1904. The circumstances were as follows: Mr. Martin wrote a paper for one of the medical journals describing the work of the hospital, and saying that in spite of the drawbacks of the building their results were better than those of any other women's hospital in this country. The disadvantages of the building were great, as it was an old farmhouse adapted for the purpose. The chairman of the committee of that day was very angry at having any fault found with the building, and demanded of Mr. Martin that he should either withdraw what he had said or else resign from the staff of the hospital. Mr. Martin replied that he would do neither, but that unless something were done to provide better and safer accommodation he would write to every member of the committee and to every subscriber, and let them know the facts. As a result of this the committee considered the matter, and deputed Mr. Martin, together with the architect, to inspect the most up-to-date hospitals in London; and finally the new hospital was planned and built.

The University of Capetown has suffered a great loss in the sudden death on January 22nd of Dr. DAVID EPSTEIN, assistant in the Department of Pharmacology. In 1925 he finished his medical course at the University of Capetown, obtaining the degrees of M.B., Ch.B., with honours. He was awarded the Council gold medal and the post-graduate scholarship in medicine. Since that time he had held the appointment of assistant in pharmacology. In 1928 he obtained the degree of Ph.D. for a thesis on the pharmacological actions of the venom of the Cape cobra. In 1931 he spent some months in the pharmacological laboratories of the University of Oxford and worked on the action of amines. Dr. Epstein devoted a great deal of time to research, and, alone or with others, published about twenty-five original papers, including a series on the action of drugs on the batrachian alimentary tract. His untimely death at the age of 31 brings to an early close the career of a pharmacologist of great promise.

J. W. C. G.

By the death of Dr. RHYS THOMAS LEWIS, at the early age of 38, Swansea and the medical profession have suffered a grievous loss. His medical education started at Cardiff, whence he gained the Goldsmiths' entrance exhibition in anatomy and physiology at University College Hospital, London, in 1914. There, in 1915, he was awarded the junior clinical surgical prize. He filled all the resident posts at the hospital, as well as that of clinical assistant to the skin and V.D. departments. His last post at U.C.H. was the appointment of Harker Smith scholar in radium. He was assistant physician to the Swansea General and Eye Hospital, and consulting physician to the Gorseinon General Hospital. During the war he served at Basra and Baghdad with a commission